Application. No. 09/912,134

IN THE CLAIMS

1. - 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a ~~CAN~~ **Controller Area Network** communication line, comprising:

comparing a first ~~CAN~~ **Controller Area Network** bus line having a first voltage thereon, to a ground level;

generating a first signal, where the first signal is a logic "1" if the difference between the first ~~CAN~~ **Controller Area Network** bus line and the ground level is less than a first voltage; and the first signal is a logic "0" [[:]] if the difference between the first ~~CAN~~ **Controller Area Network** bus line and the ground level is greater than the first voltage;

selecting the first signal as an input signal to an edge-triggered flip-flop if a receive data signal is in a first one of two states, and selecting an output signal of the edge-triggered flip-flop as an input signal to the edge-triggered flip-flop if the receive data signal is in a second one of two states; and

clocking the edge-triggered flip-flop when a transmit data signal changes state.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein the first voltage is -1.2 volts.

11. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein the first voltage has a tolerance in the region of 320%.

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12. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein the edge-triggered flip-flop is a positive edge-triggered flip-flop, and the edge-triggered flip-flop is clocked when the transmit data signal changes state from a high level to a low level.

13. (New) An apparatus for operating a Controller Area Network communication line, comprising:

a means for comparing a first Controller Area Network bus line having a first voltage thereon, to a ground level;

a means for generating a first signal, where the first signal is a first logical value if the difference between the first Controller Area Network bus line and the ground level is less than a first voltage; and the first signal is a second logical value, if the difference between the first CAN bus line and the ground level is greater than the first voltage;

a means for selecting the first signal as an input signal to an edge-triggered flip-flop if a receive data signal is in a first one of two states, and selecting an output signal of the edge-triggered flip-flop as an input signal to the edge-triggered flip-flop if the receive data signal is in a second one of two states; and

a means for clocking the edge-triggered flip-flop when a transmit data signal changes state.

14. (New) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the first voltage is -1.2 volts.

15. (New) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the first voltage has a tolerance in the region of 320%.

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16. (New) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the first logical value is "1" and the second logical value is "0".

17. (New) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the clocking of the edge-triggered flip-flop occurs responsive to a high-to-low transition of the transmit data signal.

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